NOTE XXVI.

ON A NEW SPECIES OF TRERON FROM THE ISLAND OF SUMBA (SANDELWOOD).

BY

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Treron Teysmannii.

Mr. Teysmann, the indefatigable honorary Inspector of the cultures at Buitenzorg in Java, collected, amongst other objects of Natural history, several years ago, during a visit to the island of Sumba, commonly called Sandelwood-island, two specimens of a pigeon of the genus Treron, which appears to belong to a species hitherto unknown to naturalists.

This bird, dedicated to a gentlemen, who has rendered so many services to science, has its next allied species in Treron psittacea from Timor and in Treron floris inhabiting the island from which its epithet is taken. Ornithologists will remember that I brought the two latter species in a separate subdivision, distinguished from some other allied species of which Treron aromatica is the most remarkable, by their somewhat more lengthened tail. This subdivision was characterized by me (Muséum des Pays-Bas, tome 4, Columbae, p. 58) in the following terms. "Queue un peu allongée. Teintes générales du plumage d'un vert jaune, passablement vif en arrière du manteau, légèrement lavé

de grisâtre sur les autres parties et se répandant uniformément sur tout le dessous de l'oiseau. De larges lisérés jaunes aux couvertures alaires grandes et moyennes, plus étroites aux rémiges secondaires. Blanc grisâtre du dessous des rectrices clair et occupant plus du dernier tiers de leur longueur. Souscaudales vertes, mais très largement bordées de blanc roussâtre." We have seen by this general diagnosis of the two species, that the male and female are of the same coloring, or in other words, that the male has not, as in Treron aromatica and griseicauda, the shoulders dark grey, nor the shoulder-feathers and the mantle tinged with brownish red inclining to purple. Our new species showing this same color, only on the hindest part of the mantle and the hinder shoulder-feathers, this circumstance leads to an addition to the diagnosis of the subdivision, giving at the same time a very conspicuous characteristic to our new species.

In size, Treron Teysmannii is superior to Treron floris and even a little to Treron psittacea, the wing measuring six inches to six inches and four lines; the tail however, is of the same length as in Tr. psittacea, whereas it is a third of an inch shorter in Treron floris. The bill from front to point has in length seven lines and is of a greenish horncolour. The tarse and toes appear to have been of a greenish gray.

Front, throat, rump and upper tail-coverts greenish yellow. Under part of body yellowish green. The middle pair of tail-feathers yellowish olive color. The other tail-feathers grayish at the base, passing into a large band of dark bluish gray, while more than the last third of these feathers is of a grayish white color which spreads also over the upperside of the other tail-feathers, but in decreasing extension towards the outer feathers. Under tail-coverts green, very broadely margined with fulvous yellowish white. Crown and sides of the head, neck, small wing-coverts, shoulder-feathers and mantle green with a grayish hue; with the exception of the hindest part of

the mantle and the hinder shoulder-feathers, which are both of a brownish red inclining to purple. Quills black, but the tertiairies washed with green. Middle wing-coverts black, very broadely margined with limonyellow like the tertiairies; great wing-coverts with somewhat smaller, and primaries with very small yellow margins. Entire underside of the wing bluish ashy gray.

The sex of our specimens not having been stated, it is only by analogy that we may judge them both as being adult males.